MARVEL LEGACY
THE DEATH OF THE MIGHTY THOR
701
AARON
HARREN
STEWART
The Mighty
THOR

WHEN DR. JANE FOSTER LIFTS THE MYSTIC HAMMER MJOLNIR, SHE IS TRANSFORMED INTO THE GODDESS OF THUNDER, THE MIGHTY THOR! HER ENEMIES ARE MANY, AS ASGARD DESCENDS FURTHER INTO CHAOS AND WAR THREATENS TO SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE TEN REALMS. YET HER GREATEST BATTLE WILL BE AGAINST A FAR MORE PERSONAL FOE: THE CANCER THAT IS KILLING HER MORTAL FORM...

MALEKITH AND HIS ALLIES ARE WAGING WAR ACROSS THE TEN REALMS. TO STOP HIM, VOLSTAGG PICKED UP THE HAMMER OF THE ULTIMATE THOR AND BECAME THE WAR THOR—BUT ITS POWER DROVE HIM INTO A MAD BLOODLUST. HE TRIED TO GIVE UP THE HAMMER, BUT ITS CALL PROVED IRRESISTIBLE. FOR THE HAMMER KNEW WHAT WAS COMING...

MANGOG HAS RETURNED TO OLD ASGARD, WHERE THE GODS ONCE DWELLED. IT IS TIME FOR THE ULTIMATE JUDGMENT. IT IS TIME FOR THE GODS TO DIE.

THE WRATH OF THE MANGOG

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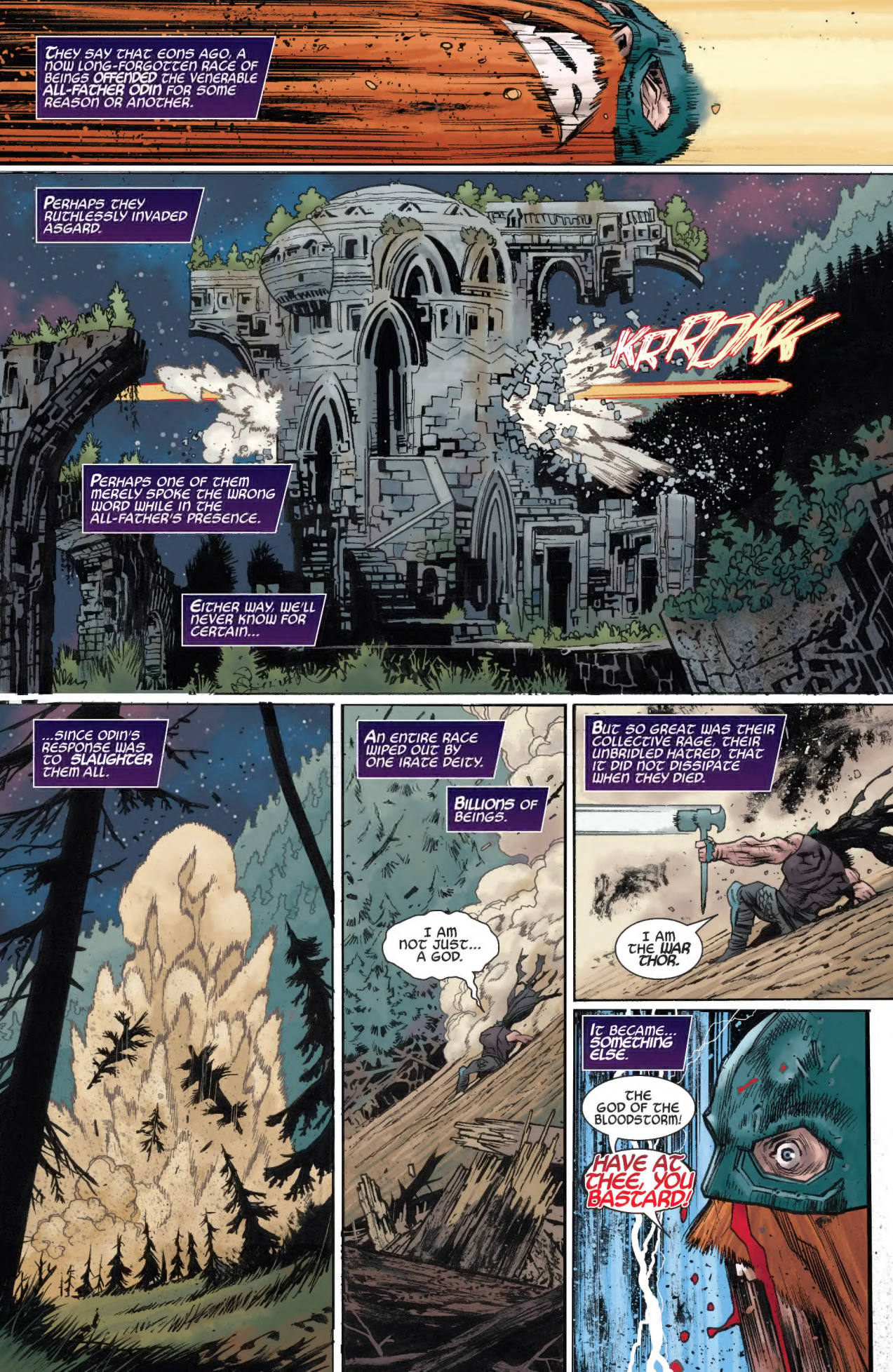
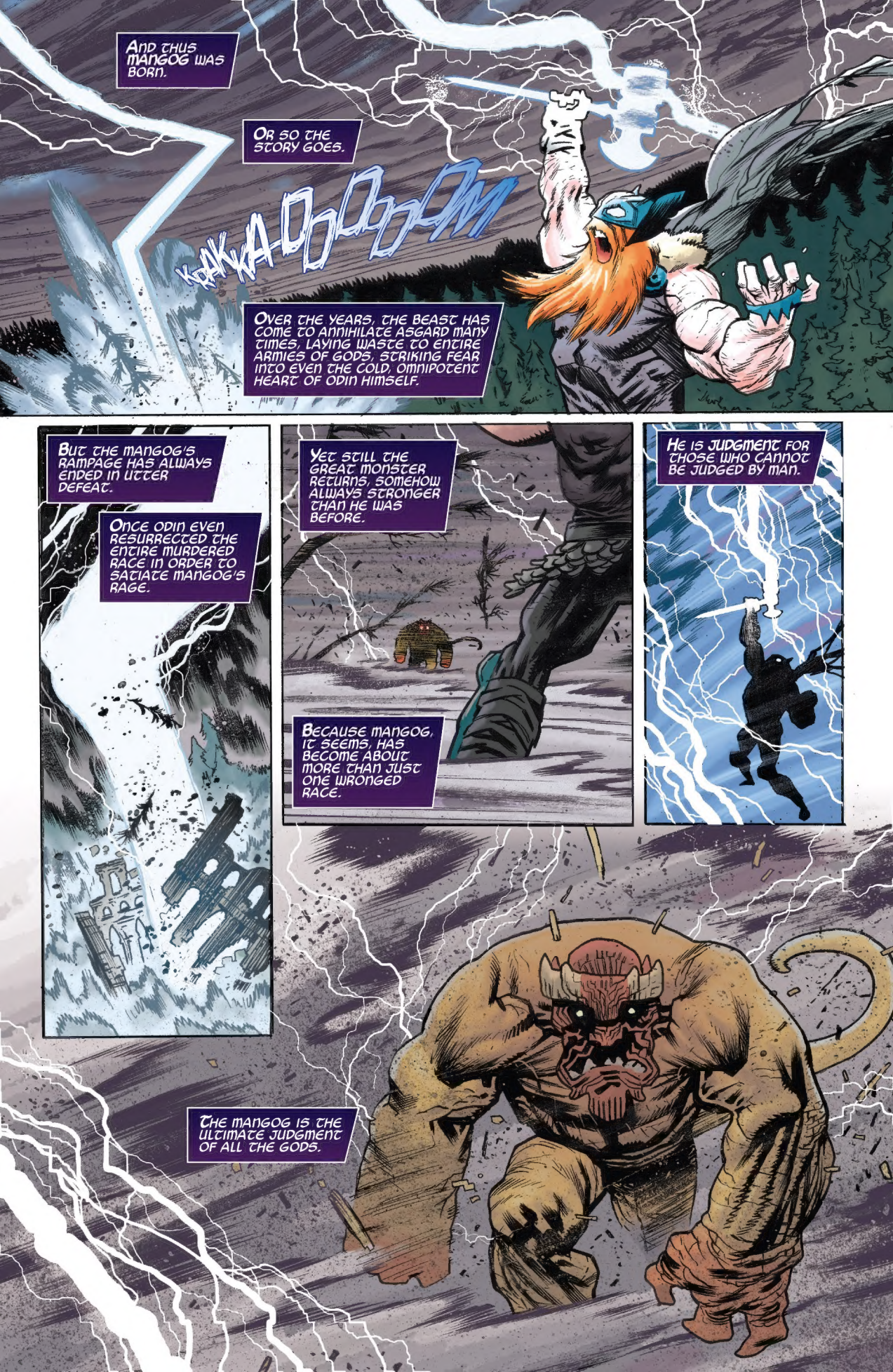
They say it is ferocity personified.
RRRGGGH!!!
They say nothing that lives, nothing that breathes, can stay its wrath.
That it has power few can comprehend and none can hope to equal.
The power of untold billions of beings.
They say it was born from the rage of an entire slaughtered people.
And all of those wonderful things are quite true.
But they are not the whole of the truth.

KRRRNG
GUUGH!
I DO NOT KNOW YOU. BUT YOU SMELL LIKE ONE OF THEM.
THE ASGARDIANS.
YOU ARE A GOD.
HRRGH.
THAT IS ALL I NEED TO KNOW.


They say that eons ago, a now long-forgotten race of beings offended the venerable All-Father Odin for some reason or another.
Perhaps they ruthlessly invaded Asgard.
KRRAK
Perhaps one of them merely spoke the wrong word while in the All-Father's presence.
Either way, we'll never know for certain...
...since Odin's response was to slaughter them all.
An entire race wiped out by one irate deity.
Billions of beings.
I am not just... a god.
But so great was their collective rage, their unbridled hatred, that it did not dissipate when they died.
I am the War Thor.
It became... something else.
The god of the bloodstorm!
HAVE AT THEE, YOU BASTARD!


And thus Mangog was born.
Or so the story goes.
KRAKKA-DOOOOM
Over the years, the beast has come to annihilate Asgard many times, laying waste to entire armies of gods, striking fear into even the cold, omnipotent heart of Odin himself.
But the Mangog's rampage has always ended in utter defeat.
Once Odin even resurrected the entire murdered race in order to satiate Mangog's rage.
Yet still the great monster returns, somehow always stronger than he was before.
Because Mangog, it seems, has become about more than just one wronged race.
He is judgment for those who cannot be judged by man.
The Mangog is the ultimate judgment of all the gods.

And as usual, he has found those gods...
...wanting.
As have we all.

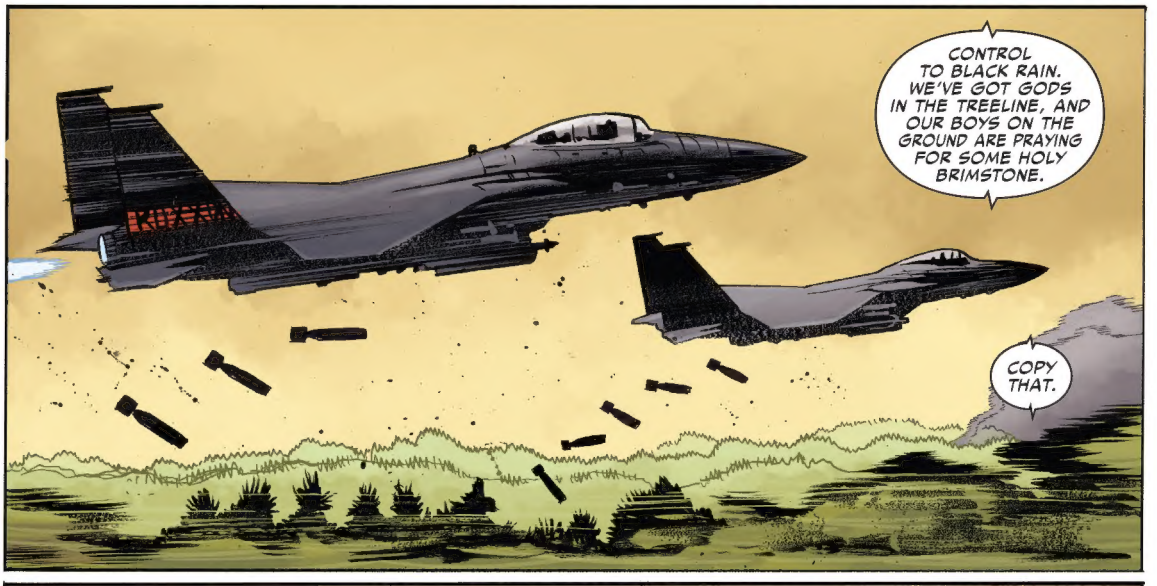
ROXXON
But no god in all the realms freely consents to judgment, not without a fight.
VANAHEIM.
REALM OF THE OLD GODS.
STRIKE TEAM DELTA TO ROXXON CONTROL, WE HAVE ENGAGED THE ENEMY. I REPEAT, WE HAVE ENGAGED THE ENEMY.

AND THE ENEMY IS KICKING OUR TAILS!
THESE DAMN VANIR GODS ARE OVERWHELMING US! WE COULD USE SOME REINFORCEMENTS DOWN HERE, A-S-A-DAMN-P!

COPY THAT, STRIKE TEAM. REINFORCEMENTS EN ROUTE.

B.E.R.S.E.R.K.E.R. SQUAD DEPLOYED.
ALL RIGHT, YOU MAGGOTS...!

GET READY TO SMASH SOME GODS!


CONTROL TO BLACK RAIN. WE'VE GOT GODS IN THE TREELINE, AND OUR BOYS ON THE GROUND ARE PRAYING FOR SOME HOLY BRIMSTONE.
COPY THAT.

PRAYERS ANSWERED. COURTESY OF 5,000 POUNDS OF NAPALM.
AND THE ROXXON ENERGY CORPORATION. HALLOWED BE THY NAME.
WHEN A PRAYER IS SENT OUT INTO THE ETHER... LIKE A DESPERATE CRY FOR HELP...AND IS PROMPTLY IGNORED BY ALL THE GODS...

...THE MANGOG KNOWS.
WHEN DEVOUT MEN DIE WHILE THEIR GODS DO NOTHING, THE MANGOG RISES.
WHEN DIVINE GARDENERS NEGLECT THEIR ORCHARDS AND ENTIRE WORLDS WITHER AND DIE, THE MANGOG RAGES.
UGGH.
WHEN THEY SIN AND CALL IT HOLY, HE SWELLS WITH POWER.
AND THEN HE COMES FOR THEM.
HGGGGHK!
WITH SOME SINS OF HIS OWN.

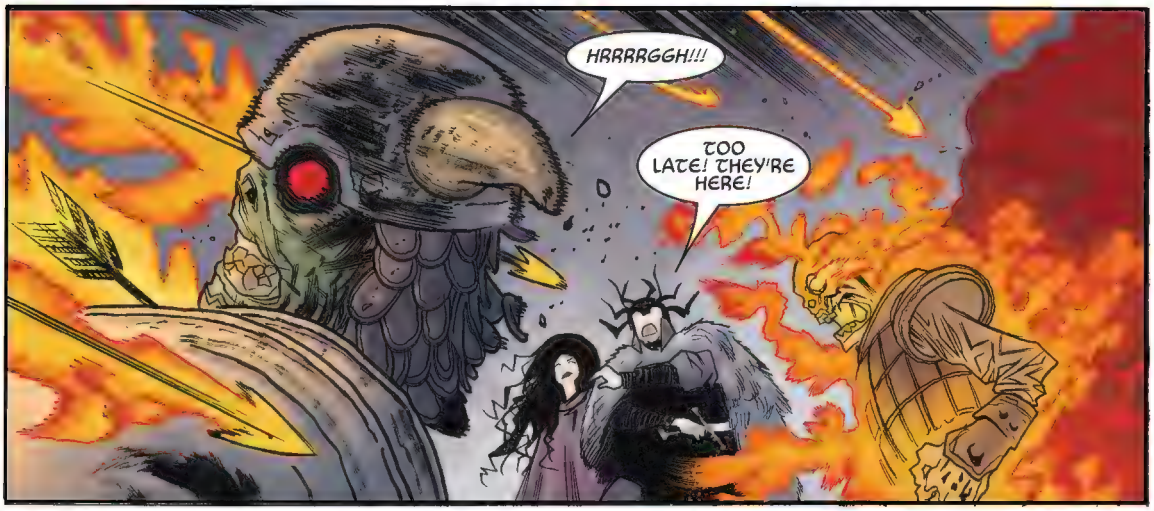
GRRGH!
ENOUGH!
YOU WILL FALL AS ALWAYS, MONSTER! YOU ARE NO MATCH FOR THE POWER OF MY WARHAMMER!
MANGOG DOESN'T FEAR HAMMERS! OR THE COWARDLY GODS WHO HIDE BEHIND THEM!
GAGH!
SPTTOO
THE WAR THOR IS NO MERE GOD. YOU THINK YOURSELF MIGHTY BECAUSE YOU WIELD THE POWER OF A FEW BILLION MURDERED BEINGS?
I AM CHARGED WITH THE RAGE OF AN ENTIRE DEAD UNIVERSE!
HERE, MANGOG, TASTE FOR YOURSELF!

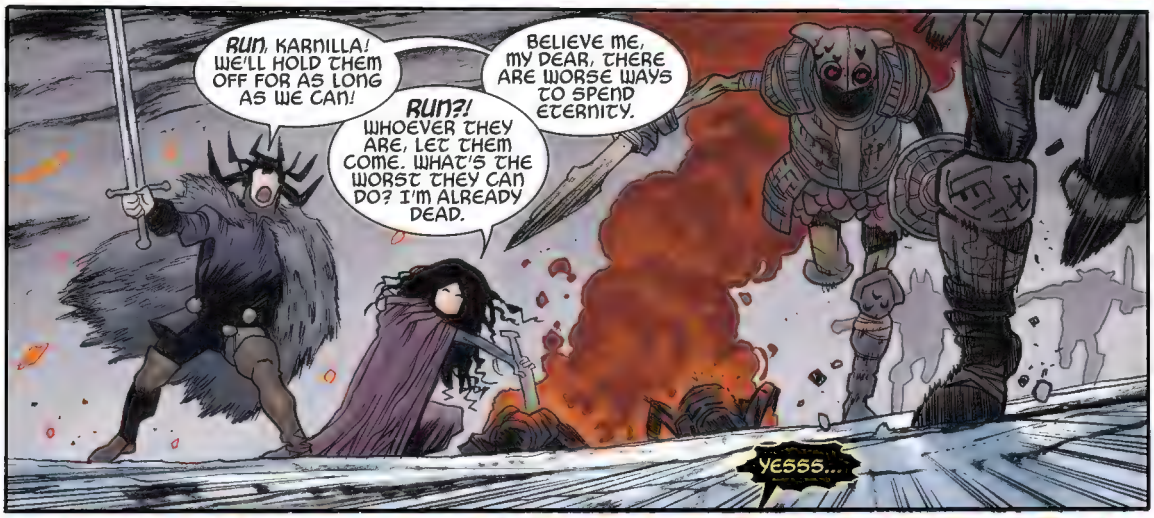
RRRRRGGGH!!!
GUUGH!
HA HAA HA!
TASTES LIKE ANOTHER DEAD GOD.

UGGH. IMPOSSIBLE.
I EAT THE IMPOSSIBLE.
AND THE OMNIPOTENT.
I FEED ON THE MONSTERS WHO HIDE IN HEAVEN. I AM THE GREAT MAGGOT GNAWING ITS WAY THROUGH THE ROTTING FLESH OF THE UNHOLIEST OF HOLIES.
FEEDING WITH THE HUNGER OF A BILLION BILLION BEINGS.
AND I HUNGER STILL.

NIFFLEHEIM.
LAND OF THE DEAD.
MMGH. I FEEL SO... STRANGE.
YOU'VE JUST ARRIVED. THE FEELING WILL PASS.
ARRIVED? LAST THING I REMEMBER...WAS THE NORNKEEP COLLAPSING AND THE ODINSON...
WHERE... WHERE AM I?
I AM TRULY AND DEEPLY SORRY, QUEEN KARNILLA, BUT...
WELCOME TO HEL.

HEL? THEN...
...I DIED. I DIED IN THAT RUBBLE.
I AM AFRAID YOU DID.
WAIT... WHO...WHO ARE...
BALDER? BALDER THE BRAVE...IS THAT REALLY YOU?
AYE, KARNILLA. THOUGH THESE DAYS IT'S KING BALDER, LORD OF CORPSES.
I IMAGINE YOU HAVE MANY QUESTIONS, MY LADY, BUT I'M AFRAID NOW IS NOT THE TIME FOR--
OH, MY LOVE. AT LONG LAST.
KARNILLA...
IT WAS WORTH IT. IT WAS WORTH DYING JUST TO SEE YOU AGAIN. I'VE MISSED YOU MORE THAN I COULD EVER--
RRRGGGH.
EASY, BOYS.
WHAT IN THE NAME OF THE NORNS ARE THOSE?
THE GUARDIANS OF NASTROND. WORRY NOT. THEY FIGHT FOR ME.
THEN WHY ARE THEY LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT?
I IMAGINE THEY THOUGHT YOU WERE ATTACKING THEIR KING. THEY'RE NOT USED TO SEEING HUGS IN HEL.
COME, MY LADY. WE MUST--


HRRRRGGH!!!
TOO LATE! THEY'RE HERE!


RUN, KARNILLA! WE'LL HOLD THEM OFF FOR AS LONG AS WE CAN!
RUN?! WHOEVER THEY ARE, LET THEM COME. WHAT'S THE WORST THEY CAN DO? I'M ALREADY DEAD.
BELIEVE ME, MY DEAR, THERE ARE WORSE WAYS TO SPEND ETERNITY.
YESSS...

LIKE BURNING! HA HA HA!
BURN THE DEAD! BURN THEM ALL!
FOR MUSPELHEIM! FOR SINDR, THE NEW QUEEN OF HEL!

WHAM
WHAM
WHAM
WHAM

RRRROOOOOOORRR!!!
WAR.
MUST STOP...THE WAR. CANNOT... FALL.
YOU ARE TOUGH. FOR GODMEAT. I WILL GIVE YOU THAT.
PERHAPS YOU REALLY DO FIGHT WITH THE POWER OF AN ENTIRE MURDERED UNIVERSE.
BUT MY RAGE COMES FROM INSIDE. WHILE YOURS...
...COMES FROM THIS.
n-no.
THE MANGOG WILL NEVER BREAK.
BUT THE SAME CANNOT BE SAID...FOR HAMMERS.
WHAT ARE YOU...
GAAAARRGGH!!!

KRRRRNNGGH
AAAARRRGGGHH!!
no.
no no no. how did you...
NO MORE HAMMER.
NO MORE THOR.

HHGGH.
NOW WHERE ARE THEY?
WHERE ARE THE ASGARDIANS?
GONE. ALL GONE.
NO. IF THEY WERE DEAD, I WOULDN'T BE HERE. I WOULDN'T HAVE RISEN.
WHERE ARE THEY?
YOU STILL HAVE A FEW BONES THAT HAVEN'T BEEN BROKEN YET. TELL ME.
ARRRGGH! NEVER!!!
IT'S CALLED ASGARDIA.
AND THEY'RE ALL THERE.
ALL YOUR OLD FAVORITES. INCLUDING ALL-FATHER ODIN HIMSELF.
ALL WAITING FOR YOU.

WHERE?
BIG GOLDEN CITY, FLOATING NEAR SATURN. YOU CAN'T MISS IT.
AND YOU ARE...?
NOT A GOD. THUS NOT YOUR CONCERN.
THEN DON'T GET IN MY WAY.
OH, I WOULDN'T DREAM OF IT.
HELP.
PERHAPS SOMEDAY WE'LL LIVE IN A WORLD WHERE THE MANGOG IS NO LONGER NEEDED.
I'M CHANGING, I CAN'T... HOLD...
OH, WHY BOTHER HOLDING ON? THERE'S NOTHING HERE FOR YOU ANYMORE.
WHERE HIS RAGE CAN BE SATED FOREVER.
HELLO, WAR THOR.
I'M THAT WAR YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR.
WHAT A BORING WORLD THAT WOULD BE.

I PREFER THE WORLD I'VE MADE, IN ALL ITS RUINED BEAUTY.
THE WORLD OF MALEKITH THE ACCURSED.
A WORLD ERUPTING WITH WAR.
A WORLD WHERE GODS ARE DYING.
WITH MORE SOON TO FOLLOW.
GODSPEED, MANGOG.
AND GOODBYE, MIGHTY THOR.
TO BE CONTINUED.

AND LO, THERE CAME THE...
HAMMER GRAMS

SEND LETTERS TO MHEROES@MARVEL.COM, DON'T FORGET TO MARK "OKAY TO PRINT"!

SORRY ABOUT THAT, WAR THOR FANS. THINGS ARE NOT LOOKING GOOD FOR THE FORMER LION OF ASGARD. OR FOR ASGARD, FOR THAT MATTER. IF A GOD WITH THE POWER OF AN ENTIRE DEAD UNIVERSE CAN'T HOLD BACK THE MANGOG, WHAT'S IN STORE FOR THE REST OF THE GODS?! ESPECIALLY WITH MALEKITH WRITING HIS OWN FATE NOW...

YOU'LL HAVE TO STICK AROUND TO FIND OUT! IN THE MEANTIME, YOUR *MIGHTY THOR* TEAM WILL KEEP BASKING IN YOUR PRAISES...

Aaron,

When someone has had *THOR* as their favorite title for nigh 50 years, it's hard to impress them or get onto their "hall of fame" list--but you've made it on mine!!! You've been added to my long list that includes Kirby, John Buscema, Simonson, DeFalco, Sal Buscema, Jurgens and Fraction--but I will focus on your latest and greatest creation: Volstagg. My complaint most years is that Thor has a supporting cast that hasn't been fully expanded upon; nor, have the number of prominent Asgardians truly expanded over all these decades.

Thanks for War Thor, who I feel is prime for his own title. You'd finally get to expand on his children by birth, his human, adopted children and many more myths or past battles.

Here are my decade standouts for Volstagg:

-1960s: Thor #144-145--Volstagg saves a group of Asgardians in *Tales of Asgard* with mega weapon--no longer seen as comic relief.

-1970s: Thor #202-203--He goes "warrior mad" against Ego Prime.

-1980s: Thor #375--We are truly introduced to his wife and family with the defining moment when they adopt Midgardian children.

-1990s: Thor (1998) #11--an emaciated Volstagg continues to battle the Dark Gods. Shocker visuals!

-2000s: The Thor SIEGE storyline--Volstagg is implicated in the destruction of my Chicago Bears' Soldier Field.

-2010s: War Thor--did not see that coming until I got to that page, yea! Verily!!!

John Panno
Addison, IL

Hi John,

We're honored that this volume of *THE MIGHTY THOR* has made it onto your "best of" list—which sounds very extensive! And I hope you're not too heartbroken over poor Volstagg's state at the end of this issue. Volstagg is an incredible, and beloved, character. Or he was, anyway...

Dear *MIGHTY THOR* team,

Thank you for crafting engaging stories and beautiful art issue after issue. Absolutely my favorite book out there.

I just finished reading issue #22. Further examples of why Jane is truly worthy, especially saving the child. Considering the glimpses of stories we hear of the actions of the different realms, it may lead reasonable thinkers to conclude that no realm is innocent in this war. Hmm. Sounds a bit like our world.

Loved the little hint of what story Loki may be planning. I wonder, though, considering his *AGENT OF ASGARD* appearance, is Loki the God of lies or the God of stories?

Always anxious for the next issue, and will wait with excitement until all the Asgardian siblings are reunited. :-)

Thanks to the whole *MIGHTY THOR* team for being so awesome!

Sheri from Kansas

Hi Sheri,

Welcome back to the Hammer Grams! As for your question about Loki—isn't he both? The best part of that character is his mutability and complexity. He's taking up new roles all the time. Like, for instance...the role of Sorcerer Supreme! If you don't know what I'm talking about, you'd better go pick up *DOCTOR STRANGE* #381, on sale now!

Hello,

I am writing this email under the prompting of *THE MIGHTY THOR VOLUME 5*. Thank you for publishing this series, and choosing a woman to be the next Thor (though I know that decision was made some years ago, I'd still like to thank you). I got this collection for free from some Amazon/Marvel Kindle deal, so maybe it will please you to know that partnership is doing well. I also purchased some other female-headlining books, such as the new *MS. MARVEL* and the *MOON GIRL AND DEVIL DINOSAUR* series, which, though it's pretty great, seems to be more for kids. I also bought the old *INFINITY GAUNTLET* collection since I heard good things about it, and I was blown away by how amazing it still was, decades later. I received some of these for free/at a big discount and purchased others, so I hope I have a chance to get more ebooks this way in the future. Physical comic book volumes take up way too much space these days.

Thanks again,
Hanna Bao

Hi Hanna,

Sounds like you've got pretty great taste! You listed some of my favorite books. Thanks for reading—in any format—and I hope you stick with us!

Dear Editor,

I love this mag like a bear does honey! It has epic brawls, frantic pacing, and solid, timeless themes. The look of the mag is fantastic and epic. I'm at a loss for superlatives to express my opinion of this run on *THOR*.

Regards,
John

Thanks for all the adjectives, John! And for writing in; we love getting letters like this.

To Jason Aaron,

I just finished reading the one-shot story *[GENERATIONS: THE UNWORTHY THOR & THE MIGHTY THOR]* and was left delighted with the insights and revelations. Young Thor was so determined to prove his worthiness so he could one day wield the hammer. Was that because of Odin's enchantments or because of the Mother Storm's calling? I understand the significance of his connection with humanity as one of the motivations to persist in proving his worthiness. As a son of the earth goddess Gaea/Jord, he is drawn to hang out in Midgard almost automatically. Odin seems to hold humanity in contempt. If he has felt that way about us mere mortals all along, why did he send his son to earth to learn humility? If Odin and the rest of the Asgardians hold us in such low regard, then I question their existence. What is the purpose for the existence of such gods? For all their godliness, these Asgardians are in need of some kind of enlightenment that will take them to the next level of their godhood.

The idea of enlightened gods brings to mind DC's "New Gods." Those gods were approachable. They were willing to work with us mere mortals for the sake of the world or the universe. There were some individual gods that might not have cared for humans, but for the most part, the New Gods were kind and compassionate toward humanity. This is something sorely lacking in the Asgardians, especially Odin.

The Phoenix and Odin!! Didn't see that coming. I did notice Odin holding Mjolnir in the last page. I'm thinking that Odin was able to tame the hammer somewhere along the line.

Thanks for a great story!!

Robert Greg Espinosa
Stockton, CA

Hi Robert,

I'm so glad you picked up *GENERATIONS!* and I hope you checked out *MARVEL LEGACY #1* as well—more stellar writing from Jason, and an amazing team of artists. As for your question about Young Thor's motivations, I think he's drawn to the hammer because "worthiness" itself is such a goal. But we can see in stories like the *GENERATIONS* one-shot that he's always been a hero—with or without the hammer. That's what makes him the Odinson and the character we love.

Thanks for writing in!

That's all the news that's fit to print this month, but we want to take a moment to thank our phenomenally talented guest art team of James Harren and Dave Stewart, who also contributed to last month's blockbuster issue. There couldn't have been a better team to tackle this epic beatdown. Keep an eye out for a new creator-owned project from James next year! And join us again next month as Russell Dauterman and Matt Wilson return to take us one step further toward the death of the Mighty Thor...

'Til next time!
Sarah

NEXT:

THE MIGHTY THOR #702

REVOLUTION IN HEAVEN!

THE MIGHTY THOR #703

THE FALL OF ASGARD!